

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2465 S. Townsend Ave.  
Montrose, CO 81401**

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

**DOI-BLM-CO-S054-2013-0024 EA**

Location: T15S R95W, sec. 5; T 15S R 93W, sec. 6; T 14S R94W, sec. 36;  
T 15S 94W sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9

Project Name: Centennial Canoe SRP

Applicant: Centennial Canoe

**Background**

The BLM Uncompahgre Field Office has completed Environment Assessment (EA), # DOI-BLM-CO-S054-2013-0024, which analyses the effects of issuing a commercial river Special Recreation Permit on the Gunnison River from the Gunnison Forks Recreation Site to Confluence Park in Delta. The permit is for BLM lands within the Gunnison Gorge NCA and a ½ mile segment within the North Delta OHV area.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in DOI-BLM-CO-S054-2013-0024 EA, I have determined that the Proposed Action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. The proposed action includes design features to reduce impact.

**Rationale**

This FONSI is based on my consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27), with regard to the context and the intensity of impacts described in the EA.

**Context**

The Gunnison River flows through BLM-managed lands within the Gunnison Gorge NCA. It flows through Management Unit 3 within the Gunnison River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The SRMA is a non-technical family friendly river recreation opportunity, including boating and fishing.

After the river leaves the NCA, the river generally flows through private lands until it reaches Confluence Park in the city of Delta. The exception is a ½ mile segment where it crosses BLM lands. The ½ mile stretch of BLM land is within the North Delta OHV area, managed for intensive OHV use (see Figure 1.)

### **Intensity**

*1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

Beneficial impacts are to recreation, in that there will be more opportunities for family-oriented, non-technical recreational use of the Gunnison River than what is offered in the wilderness part of the Gorge. They will provide opportunities to recreate on the river for those who do not have the expertise or equipment to outfit their own trip, or for people visiting from outside the local area. There could be minor short-term impact to vegetation and wildlife, as well as a potential to spread invasive weeds.

*2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.*

There would not be a noticeable impact to public health and safety.

*3) Unique Characteristics of the geographic area, such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

There are not historic or cultural resources park lands, farmlands or ecologically critical areas in the project area. There are riparian areas that would be negligibly impacted for a short time. The river passes through a suitable wild and scenic river segment classified as Recreational. One of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values is recreation. The ORV would not be diminished.

*4) The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

There is not expected to be any controversy.

*5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

Effects on the human environment are not uncertain or unique. Special Recreation Permits on rivers are common and effects are well understood.

*6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The action will not establish a precedent for future actions. Future applications for Special Recreation Permits will need to be evaluated on their own merit.

*7) Consideration of the action in relation to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

Cumulative impacts for each resource are expected to be none to negligible.

8) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.*

The action will not affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. There will not be a loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

9) *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat.*

Impacts to endangered or threatened species are not anticipated.

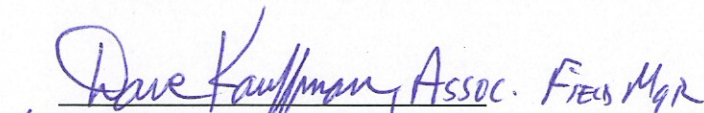
10) *Whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The action will not threaten a violation of federal, state, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

### **Determination**

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the information contained in the EA and my consideration of criteria for significance (40 CFR 1508.27). It is my determination that: 1) the implementation of the proposed action will not have significant environmental impacts; 2) the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area and Uncompahgre Basin Resource Management Plans; and 3) the Proposed Action does not constitute a major federal action having significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

Approved:

  
for Barbara Sharrow  
Field Manager  
Uncompahgre Field Office

July 3, 2013  
Date